
Annual Measurable Objectives

The Background:

Under the No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress model, Tennessee would potentially have identified 80% of all schools as high priority and many districts in need of improvement despite the schools and districts making academic progress. Governor Haslam and Commissioner Huffman sought relief from the Adequate Yearly Progress model and applied for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waivers. In February 2012, Tennessee was awarded flexibility waivers. In this process, Tennessee was allowed to create a new accountability system and reset our state performance goals.

New state performance goals or “annual measurable objectives” (AMOs) provide rigorous but realistic college-and career-readiness goals and a new basis for Tennessee’s accountability system. The new accountability system has two overriding objectives: growth for all students every year and closing achievement gaps by ensuring faster growth for those students who are furthest behind. These AMOs will also serve to measure the state’s progress in implementing the ambitious reforms of Tennessee’s First to the Top grant

One portion of the accountability system addresses the absolute performance of students at a district level. As the state has AMOs for achievement and gap closure, districts and schools will set their AMOs. However, state intervention in the absolute accountability system is based upon district academic achievement. The state AMOs and expected rate of improvement is a guide for school districts to set their district and school AMOs.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the Board’s Master Plan by assessing the level for which each student has learned the curriculum, by providing appropriate data to prioritize instructional resources, by enhancing educational leadership with the use of these data to inform the educational decision-making process, and by providing student level achievement and growth data to support excellent teaching and learning of the college- and career-ready standards.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends that the new Annual Measurable Objectives be adopted on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

Annual Measurable Objectives for 2011-2012

The Annual Measurable Objectives for 2011-2012 will be provided at the State Board of Education meeting